



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Ehrlich Announces Significant Upgrade At State 9-1-1 Centers

All primary centers can now locate wireless cell phone emergency calls

"This will save lives."

TOWSON, MD (September 22, 2005)---Calling it a potentially life-saving technological improvement, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich today announced that all primary 9-1-1 centers in Maryland are now capable of locating wireless emergency calls. The so-called Phase Two enhancement means that if a cell phone and its service provider are properly equipped, 9-1-1 operators in all 23 Maryland counties, and in Baltimore and Ocean City, will be able to locate the caller.

"This will save lives," said the Governor, speaking before a group of public safety officials, 9-1-1 center directors, and the public at the Frederick County Law Enforcement Center. "Maryland is one of the first states to accomplish this, and we're proud of the efforts of all of those who had a hand in it."

The technological upgrades leading to this historic announcement were made possible by the Emergency Number Systems Board, an agency within the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services which monitors technological advances to 9-1-1, and distributes the funding to make the enhancements possible.

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“We’ve all heard horror stories about disoriented callers not knowing where they were, and 9-1-1 not being able to identify their cell phone number and location, and thus not find them quickly,” said Anthony Myers, Chairman of the Emergency Number Systems Board. “Now, the likelihood of that happening will be significantly reduced, thanks to this 9-1-1 improvement.”

Every Maryland county, plus the cities of Baltimore and Ocean City, received funding to upgrade its 9-1-1 center. The funding comes from the small 9-1-1 surcharge that appears on your phone bill and is distributed by the Emergency Number Systems Board.

Local and state leaders joined the Governor at the news conference, which was held in front of the building that houses the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office, the Maryland State Police Frederick Barracks, and the Frederick County 9-1-1 center. Public safety officials have hailed the multiple-partner building as a step in the right direction for unifying emergency response among several police and rescue departments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Maryland Emergency Number Systems Board:
www.dpscs.state.md.us/ensb

National Emergency Number Association:
www.nena.org

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